

Message Text

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ACTION SMI-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9278
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS CAIRO 15060

STATE PASS SMITHSONIAN; TUNIS FOR AL MAJAL

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: CEREMONEY HONORING US CONTRIBUTION TO SALVATION

PHILAE TEMPLE

1. AMB WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT CEREMONY ORGANIZED BY MIN OF
INFO AND CULTURE TO RECOGNIZE US CONTRIBUTION TO SALVATION OF
PHILAE TEMPE. EVENING CEREMONY SEP 8 WAS HELD AT HISTORIC
GAYER-ANDERSON MUSEUM, AND WAS ATTENDED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS MIN
INFO AND CULTURE, AND COVERED BY PRESS, RADIO AND TV.

2. MIN OF INFO AND CULTURE, ABDEL MONEIM EL SAWI, SPOKE
AT LENGTH, RECALLING HIS EARLIER CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT
TO RESCUE ABU SIMBEL. HE NOTED THAT WHEN EGYPT REALIZED THE
ENORMITY OF THE TASK AND COST, A CALL HAD GONE OUT TO THE WORLD
FOR SUPPORT. HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTE, HE SAID, THAT THE US WAS
AMONG THE FIRST NATIONS TO RESPOND, AND INDEED WAS THE LARGEST
FOREIGN CONTRIBUTOR. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR A USG TOTAL
CONTRIBUTION OF DOLS 12 MILLION FOR ABU SIMBEL, BUT ALSO PAID
TRIBUTE TO PRIVE US CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING THOSE OF SCHOOL
CHILDREN. THE MIN SAID THAT WHEN A SIMILAR APPEAL WENT OUT
FOR HELP TO SAVE PHILAE, THE US AGAIN RESPONDED, AND HE NOTED
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THAT THE CONTRIBUTION TO DATE WAS DOLS 3MILLION, WITH THE MOST
RECENT CONTRIBUTION OF DOLS 1 MILLION HAVING JUST BEEN RECEIVED.
THE MIN SAID THAT THE RESPECT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR WORLD
HERITAGE AND THEIR STRONG HUMANISTIC VALUES TRANSCEDENDED
POLITICS, FOR, HE NOTED, DURING THE TIME OF POLITICAL DIFFER-
ENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE US HAD NOT LESSENED ITS
SUPPORT TO THE EFFORT STO SAVE THE NUBIAN MONUMENTS. FOR THIS,

HE SAID, THE US WILL ALWAYS HAVE THE GRATITUDE OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE.

3. THE AMB, IN RESPONDING, REMAKRED THAT THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE COULD BE PROUD OF THEIR GOVT'S PERSISTENT EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THEIR HERITAGE. HE STATED THAT MERICANS ALSO COULD BE PROUD THAT THEIR OWN COUNTRY HAD RESPONDED SO GENEROUSLY. TO HAVE DONE OTHERWISE, HE SAID, WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE, FOR THE MUTUAL VALUES THAT WE ALL SHARE WOULD HAVE BEEN GREATLY DIMINISHED BY THE LOSS OF THE THREATENED MONUMENTS WHICH DOCUMENT SO GLORIOUSLY THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MANKIND. HE NOTED THAT OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THE US HAS CONTRIBUTED SOME DOLS 15 MILLION TOWARD THE SALVATION OF THE TEMPLES OF ABU SIMBEL AND PHILAE. THE CHECK FOR DOLS 1 MILLION WHICH HAD JUST BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE GOE REPEESENTED A TOTAL USG CONTRIBUTION TO ATE OF DOLS 3 MILLION TOWARD THE SALVATION OF THE PHALAE TEMPLE ALONG.

4. AMB NOTED THE ROLE OF THE SMITHONSIAN INSTITUTION IN TAKING A STRONG INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION OF THESE ANCIENT MONUMENTS, AND IN MAKING THE NEEDS KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. FURTHER, HE MENTIONED THE HELPFUL ROLE OF THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, AND ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE DEDICATED WORD OF THE SALVATION OF NUBIAN MONUMENTS OFFICE, AND THE EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES OGANIZATION.

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5. WILL SEND RECORDING AMB'S AND MIN'S REMARKS TO AL MAJAL, PHOTS TO AL MAJAL AND INA/USIA.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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